

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an IL-13 receptor α -chain ~~a haemopoietin receptor~~ comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a nucleotide sequence encoding a derivative of said IL-13 receptor α -chain ~~haemopoietin receptor~~, wherein the derivative is an extracellular domain of the IL-13 receptor α -chain comprising amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4 or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4, and wherein said derivative binds with IL-13 or is immunologically interactive with antibodies to an ~~said~~ IL-13 receptor alpha chain.

2. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an IL-13 receptor α -chain ~~a haemopoietin receptor~~ comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a nucleotide sequence encoding a derivative of said an IL-13 receptor α -chain ~~haemopoietin receptor~~, wherein said receptor:

- (i) binds with IL-13 or its derivatives; and
- (ii) binds with a complex between IL-4 and IL-4 receptor α -chain,

and wherein the derivative ~~of said haemopoietin receptor~~ is an extracellular domain of the IL-13 receptor α -chain comprising amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4 or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4, and wherein said derivative binds with IL-13 or is immunologically interactive with antibodies to an ~~said~~ IL-13 receptor alpha chain.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes an IL-13 receptor α -chain or a derivative thereof, said nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or having a nucleotide sequence ~~nucleic acid molecule~~ which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ

ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions, wherein said low stringency conditions comprise 6x SSC, 0.1% w/v SDS at 42°C, and wherein the derivative is an extracellular domain of the IL-13 receptor α -chain comprising amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4 or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4, and wherein said derivative binds with IL-13 or is immunologically interactive with antibodies to ~~an~~ said IL-13 receptor alpha chain.

8. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes an IL-13 receptor α -chain or a derivative thereof having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the derivative is an extracellular domain of the IL-13 receptor α -chain comprising amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4 or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID No: 4, and wherein said derivative binds with IL-13 or is immunologically interactive with antibodies to ~~an~~ said IL-13 receptor alpha chain.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 or 7 operably linked to a promoter which directs expression of said nucleic acid molecule in a host cell.

11-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 or 2 or 7 or 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide having at least two of the following characteristics:

- (i) comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4;
- (ii) is encoded by a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3;

- (iii) binds with IL-13 or its derivatives; and
- (iv) said polypeptide, when expressed in COS cells, has a molecular weight of from about 50,000 to about 70,000 daltons as determined by Western blot analysis,

said method comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express the nucleic acid molecule in said expression vector to produce a recombinant polypeptide and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

29. (Previously presented) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide having at least three of the following characteristics:

- (i) comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4;
- (ii) is encoded by a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3;
- (iii) binds with IL-13 or its derivatives;
- (iv) said polypeptide, when expressed in COS cells, has a molecular weight of from about 50,000 to about 70,000 daltons as determined by Western blot analysis;
- (v) comprises an amino acid sequence derived from IL-4 receptor α -chain; and
- (vi) is capable of interaction with IL-13 which is competitively inhibited by IL-4 in cells which express an IL-4 receptor α -chain,

said method comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express the nucleic acid molecule in said expression vector to produce a recombinant polypeptide and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

30. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell which expresses the recombinant polypeptide produced by the method according to claim 28.

31-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell which expresses the recombinant polypeptide produced by the method according to claim 29.

37. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

38. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes an extracellular domain of an IL-13 receptor alpha chain.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 28-346 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

44. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 28-426 of SEQ ID NO:4.

45. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell which recombinantly expresses the haemopoietin receptor encoded by SEQ ID NO:3.

46. (Previously presented) The host cell of any one of claims 30, 36 or 45 wherein said host cell is an animal cell.

47. (Currently amended) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express a polypeptide encoded by ~~the nucleic acid molecule as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3~~ in said expression vector and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

48. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1 wherein said sequence consists of nucleotides 142-1098 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

49. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1 wherein said sequence consists of nucleotides 142-1338 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

50-52. (Cancelled)